

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13. Canceled.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing safety of a stairlift installation comprising a rail extending between upper end and lower ends of a staircase, a carriage moveable along the rail, and carriage operating controls remote from the carriage, the method comprising: providing a proximity sensor to disable the carriage operating ~~control~~controls when a person is proximate the carriage.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, in which providing the proximity sensor comprises mounting the proximity sensor proximate the carriage.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, in which a chair is mounted on the carriage, and the method further comprises providing an occupancy sensor to sense when a load is applied to the chair.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, in which the chair is foldable, the method further comprising providing a sensor to sense when the chair is folded.

18. (Previously Presented) A stairlift assembly, comprising a rail extending between an upper and lower end of a staircase; a carriage moveable along the rail; and carriage operating controls remote from the carriage; the assembly comprising: a proximity sensor to sense the proximity of a person to the carriage and to render the carriage operation controls inoperative in response to sensing the proximity of the person.

19. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 18, in which the proximity sensor is mounted proximate the carriage.

20. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 18, further comprising a chair mounted on the carriage, and in which at least part of the proximity sensor being mounted on the chair.

21. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 20, further comprising an occupancy sensor to detect presence of a user seated in the chair.

22. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 21, in which the occupancy sensor comprises a load sensor to sense load on a chair base.

23. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 20, in which the chair is foldable, the assembly further comprising a position sensor to sense when the chair is folded.

24. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 18, in which the proximity sensor is a capacitance type proximity sensor.

Claims 25-27. Canceled.

28. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the carriage operating controls comprise a calling switch to call the carriage.

29. (New) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the carriage operating controls comprise a calling switch to call the carriage.

30. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the upper and lower ends of the staircase are not within one another's line of sight.

31. (New) The assembly of claim 18, wherein the upper and lower ends of the staircase are not within one another's line of sight.